

Committee Name:	Rules Committee	Session #:	Report #:
Committee Chair:	Kathrine Casey	Vice Chair:	Leianne Crittenden, Matt Hooper
Minutes recorded by:	Kris Wingenroth and Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	March 18, 2012; 4:00 pm PDT

Motions Passed:

1. **MSA to approve the minutes of the previous meeting conducted November 15 – 20, 2011.**
2. **MSA to approve the revised interpretation, as presented, of the initiation of the first arm pull of the breaststroke.**
3. **MSA to add the following language to #11 of the Swimwear Exemption Procedures. “The swimwear exemption letter presented to the meet referee at USMS-sanctioned meets must be that granted by USMS.”**

Number of committee members present: 17

Absent: 0

Number of other delegates present: 3

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Kathy Casey (Chair), Leanne Crittenden (Vice Chair), Matt Hooper (Vice Chair), Kris Wingenroth (Secretary), Carolyn Boak, Charlie Cockrell, Sally Dillon, Barry Fasbender, Marilyn Fink, Judy Gillies, Laura Groselle, Brian Hoyt, Robert Mitchell, Jessica Seaton, Kelly Sharitt, Ginny Trimble, Steve Unruh; Mike Heather (Vice President of Administration), Ed Saltzman (Ex Officio), Chris Stevenson (invited guest)

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm PDT.

1. **Minutes:** It was moved by Sally Dillon and seconded by Steve Unruh to approve the minutes as written. **MSA to approve the minutes of the previous meeting conducted November 15 – 20, 2011.**
2. **Planning for this year’s committee work (this is a “Rules” year):** A) The committee will review the Glossary, Part 1, and the Differences documents and Dual Sanction information in Appendix B. A notice calling for proposed rule changes will be published. Those volunteering for assignments included Judy Gillies who would like 102.11 – 103.9 or 103.10 – 103.18. Anyone else wishing to volunteer for a particular section should notify the chair. USA Swimming and FINA rule books have been ordered and will be sent to committee members who need them. B) Committee members will compare applicable articles of the USMS Rule Book to the corresponding articles of the USA Swimming Rule Book keeping in mind that there are USMS exceptions to corresponding USA-S rules and the USMS language is sometimes different than USA-S language for clarity. The chair is working on a history of exceptions to USA-S rules and language as well as working with the History and Archives Committee on the history of proposed rule changes and the accompanying rationales, to preserve the reasons for those differences and for past proposed rule changes. Other discussion included a question about why the swimsuit rules aren’t in the FINA Handbook. The swimwear rules are in the Bylaws of the FINA Handbook (Bylaws are adopted and amended by the FINA Bureau) and can also be found on the FINA website. C) Report any type of error, including punctuation and grammar, in the rule book to the chair who will send the list to the Rule Book Coordinator.
3. **Rules Liaisons and Protest Committee at nationals:** Rules committee members attending nationals are encouraged to attend officials’ briefings at 7:00 am each morning with the chair to observe and participate in the Rules Liaison position. A rules committee member will also be selected to serve on the Protest Committee at each nationals. Committee members attending nationals in Greensboro, April 26 – 29 are Barry Fasbender, Laura Groselle, Ginny Trimble, and Steve Unruh. Those attending nationals in Omaha July 5 – 8 are Carolyn Boak, Sally Dillon (maybe), Barry Fasbender, Judy Gillies (maybe 2 days), Laura Groselle, and Steve Unruh.
4. **Interpretations:** A) The committee reviewed the revised FINA/USA Swimming interpretation for the initiation of the first arm pull of the breaststroke after the start and after each turn; an “observable separation of the hands” is now required to initiate the first arm pull instead of “any lateral or downward movement of the hands”. It was noted that it is difficult to watch the feet and the hands at the same time, so officials should be reminded they must observe an infraction in order to call a DQ. Charlie, Ed, and Kathy will work on a notice to officials. A question was asked about using video cameras to verify infractions. If available, official camera equipment can only be used for confirmation of calls. Concern was also expressed that nothing is being done about two dolphin kicks rather than one during the first cycle of breaststroke. It was moved by Sally Dillon and seconded by Barry Fasbender to approve the interpretation as presented. **MSA to approve the revised interpretation, as presented, of the initiation of the first arm pull of the breaststroke.** B) Regarding the word “confirmed” in 105.1.7C on page 39, **the committee agreed unanimously that “confirmed” means physically measuring the two outside lanes and a center lane of a bulkhead course.** The rule can be clarified by stating “confirmed by

measuring”. Chris Stevenson, chair of Records and Tabulation, suggested combining C and D of 105.1.7. The language on the pool length certification form, page 144, would also need to reflect this interpretation. C) There was no disagreement with the interpretation regarding neoprene caps: neoprene would not be allowed because of buoyancy (102.12.1E and 102.13.9).

5. **USMS Transsexual Policy, subcommittee:** A subcommittee will be appointed in cooperation with the USMS Sports Medicine and Science Committee to expand the USMS policy (“Transsexuals may compete in their reassigned gender as per IOC rules”) in the event that the gender of a competitor is questioned. As a member of both committees, Jessica Seaton volunteered to chair the subcommittee, Carolyn Boak will be available to serve on the subcommittee after the month of April, and Leianne Crittenden agreed to serve on the subcommittee to help with legal issues, and additional members will be appointed from the Sports Medicine and Science Committee.
6. **Medical/Religious swimwear exemption policy review and update:** Since other swimming governing bodies may grant exemptions for swimwear that do not meet the USMS procedural requirements, only a USMS exemption letter should be accepted for USMS competition. Other swimming governing bodies do not investigate or consult with medical or religious experts as USMS does. It was moved by Sally Dillon and seconded by Jessica Seaton to add the following language to #11 of the Swimwear Exemption Procedures, **“The swimwear exemption letter presented to the meet referee at USMS-sanctioned meets must be that granted by USMS.” MSA**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm PDT (moved by Sally Dillon, seconded by Matt Hooper, MSA)
